

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, February 10. 1708.

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**H**AVING been so earnestly viewing the melancholly Decay of our Trade and Trading Towns, upon the visible Encrease of *East-India* Goods in the latter Years of their Importation, it seems necessary for me, in order to open the Eyes of some People, who must have every thing made plain to them as they go, to answer a Question. Of what mighty Consequence were the particular Branches of Trade which this did affect, that so much Noise was made of it, as if the whole Nation was just going to be destroy'd?

I own this Question material; for if the Numbers of People were not very considerable, the Argument had not been of Force enough, and it was not worth while to streighten the *East-India* Trade to relieve them, since the *East-India* Trade being considerable in it self, is neither without its

Arguments, or its Utes, and ought not to be suppress'd for every Trifle.

To answer this directly, it will be needful to single out one Place to make a Calculation from; and as nothing is more affiant to Truth than Matter of Fact, I shall describe the Posture of the Manufacturers, and the Figure they made in the Nation, by fixing upon one Part, viz. the County of *Norfolk* including the City of *Norwich*. This whole County containing near 700 Parishes, and a vast Number of People, is, generally speaking, wholly maintain'd, and its Poor wholly employ'd by the Manufacture of Worsted-Stuffs, and Stuffs made of Silk, or Hair mingled with Worsted; the Stocking Trade, which was once very considerable, being in a manner totally declined there— Now to make a Calculation upon Numbers here, take it as follows.

In the City of *Norwich* and County of *Norfolk*, as is judg'd within Compass by those who are very well acquainted with the Place and the Trade, were usually employ'd ten Thousand Looms for these Stuffs.

To calculate the Whole upon this Foot, take it thus.

Each Loom employs	Spinners	6
	Winder	1
	Doubler	1
	Weaver	1

Total — 9 Persons to each Loom.

Which reckoned upon 10000 Looms, makes	90000 People.
Besides this, there may be supposed to be 1 Comber	
to every 3 Looms, which is within Compass—and is	3333
To the Whole, of Dyers, Pressers, Callenders, Dref-	
fers, &c. at least	2000
Master-Weavers who employ these People	1000

And to this vast Number are to be added all the several Sorts of People employ'd, in the Skirts of this Trade, as we may call it, such as,

Carriers, who bring in the Wool and carry out their Goods, Servants, who fetch in the Yarn, and carry out the Wool to Spinning: With 12 Waggon constantly travelling to and from *London*, and other Parts. Besides Master Combers, Master Yarn-Makers, Staplers, Wool Merchants, Loom-Makers, Tool-Makers, and the like, without Number. All these Particulars, I shall be allow'd to guess modestly, if I reckon them at 10000

Horses employ'd in these last Articles, and which are a very considerable Article in the Advantage the Country makes by their consuming the Produce, cannot be less than double this Number.

So that upon the Whole, the Stuff Trade in the County of *Norfolk*, and City of *Norwich* only, may be allow'd to employ Looms 10000, Horses 20000, and People 106333. What Proportion *London*, *Canterbury*, and some Towns employ'd in the Shalloon Trade, &c. and in other Trades equally concern'd in the Calamity, is not only too long, and perhaps difficult to be enter'd upon, at least in so small a Compass, but also not absolutely necessary.

It may however be needful to give you the Foot of the Account, and to tell you, that upon the nearest Estimate I can make, and after no little Pains taken in the Calculation, I am come to these Generals, and I believe no Man, that understands the Trade

of *England* in these Goods, will dispute them.

That on or about the Time of 1680 to 1686, there were employ'd in the Stuff and Broad-Silk Trade in *England*, such in particular, about which I am talking in this Affair of the *East-India* Prohibition,

30000 Looms.  
60000 Horses.  
320000 People.

Besides the vast *Es Catera's* of Trade, Shipping, Export and Import, which had a Dependence upon, and were occasion'd by those People and Manufactures.



I come now to examine, what Share of the Mischief, which the Growth of our *East-India* Goods procured, this Trade in general felt; and how it is to be calculated upon the particular Places.

1. If we calculate it upon the City of *Canterbury*, it would be a dismal Story indeed, where 1000 Looms being reduced to under 50, the general Decay of the Manufacture amounted to 19 Parts in 20, and upon that Foot the whole Manufacture in all the Places would be reduced to 1500 Looms, and about 16000 People; so that had all the Places decay'd like that, 300000 People had been put out of their Employment.

2. If we were to calculate upon *Spittle-Fields*, allowing Part of their Decay to be supply'd by their Encroachment made upon the *Norwich* Trade, yet at least 7 Parts in 10 of their Trade was lost.

3. If you go to the City of *Norwich* and County of *Norfolk*, 4 Parts in 10 is allow'd to be sunk.

And put this all together, above One half of the Manufacture was entirely lost, One Half of the People scatter'd and ruin'd, and all this by the Encrease of the *East-India* Trade, as shall appear in our next.

## MISCELLANEA.

I Come now to my old Friend the *Rebearsal*, who stands in great Need of some Correction; I acknowledge, that it is too insignificant a thing, to spend so much Time upon the Replying to such a noisie clamouring Adversary, yet I must throw away a few Lines upon him; I have gone through two or three Cases with him already, (*viz.*) That of *Abraham Gill*, Mr. *Lauder's* Notion of *Episcopacy*, and the *Jacobine* Sham about Charity to the *Scots* Clergy; I hope and believe, I have cleared them up all, I endeavour to state every thing right, and clear Things from the false Party Glosses and Cavils of a Man full of Delusions, and that regards no Truth.

He is now coming over us with a very pretty new Project, something suitable to his Kind of *Episcopacy*, and that is, a Proposal, that the *Scots Episcopal* Clergy should be joyn'd to, incorporated with, and reckon'd of the same Body with the Bishops of the Church of *England*.

It is not the first Time we have heard of the Church of *England*, and the *Episcopal* Church of *Scotland* being one and the same Church, and the Clergy in *Scotland* have made not a few Advances to make them seem more alike, as particularly their new Conformity to the Gown and the Service-Book, Novelties the *Episcopal*

Church there never accustomed themselves to before.

But to talk to Mr. *Rebearsal* in his own Way, I would propose two very fair Questions to him, and if he would, *tho' he is not us'd to it*, give but fair and direct Answers to them, we should soon find out the Bottom of this Affair, and it is needful to ask them, to come at the Design of his Party,

1. Who does he mean by the Church of *England* Bishops, when he speaks of the *Scots* Bishops uniting with them, the Bishops incumbent, and in Possession, install'd and named by the QUEEN, or the dispossest'd Bishops?

2. Is the present Church of *England*, as we call it, meaning that Part which is now under the Government of QUEEN ANNE, as Supream Head, and which owns the Revolution-Establishment, the only true Legal and rightly Establish'd Church of *England*, or is it a Schismatical Usurpation, as by *Dodwell* and his Party is alleg'd?

Never let him pretend to Argument, if he trifles in this Point; I demand a direct Answer, if he would be call'd a Man of Argument, and if his Cause will bear so much Light as this will lead us into—And let him take it which Way he will.